

NO. 22

truly transcend the powers delegated by it to the public authorities. Nor ought the suggestion to excite surprise. Government in any form is a machine; this is the most complex one that the mind of man has ever devised. It is a machine that must be constantly adjusted; it, it ought to be expected that it will, at least as often as once in a century, require some modification to adapt it to the changes of society and alternations of empire.

Fourthly, I hold myself ready now, as always before, to vote for any properly guarded laws which shall do away with the present manifest invasion of States by citizens of other States, and punish those who shall aid and abet them.

Fifthly, Notwithstanding the arguments of the great Senator from Oregon, (General LANE,) I remain firmly convinced that the physical bonds, such as highways, railroads, rivers and canals, are more important for holding civil communities together than any number of covenants, though written on parchment or engraved on stone.

upon iron. I remain, therefore, constant to my purpose to secure, if possible, the construction of two Pacific railroads, one from the Gulf of Mexico to the mouth of the Mississippi, and the other to the mouth of the Missouri and the lakes, with the harbors on the Western coast.

If, on the expression of these views, I have not proposed what is desired or expected by many others, I would make the justice to believe that I am as far from the truth as I can be. I have no reason to believe that I have been in harmony with cherished convictions of my countrymen. I learned early from Jefferson, that in political affairs, the majority is not always right, and I have never believed that I can always do what seems to us absolutely best. Those with whom we must necessarily act, entertain different views, have the power and right of carrying out their views, and we must conform to what we can and to follow when we cannot lead, and if

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